May Day Chants

Doreen Valiente, Janet and Stewart Farrar, and Robert Graves

May Day Chant One

> Here we come a' piping,
> In Springtime and in May;
> Green fruit a' ripening,
> And Winter fled away.
> The Queen she sits upon the strand,
> Fair as lily, white as wand;
> Seven billows on the sea,
> Horses riding fast and free,
> And bells beyond the sand.

Doreen Valiente; "Witchcraft for Tomorrow"; Phoenix Publishing 1985

May Day Chant Two

The High Priestess and High Priest lead a ring dance around the bonfire. Start out with "A Tree Song" from Rudyard Kipling's "Weland's Sword" story in "Puck of Pook's Hill".

> "Oh, do not tell the Priest of our Art,
> Or he would call it sin;
> But we shall be out in the woods all night,
> A conjuring summer in!
> And we bring you news by word of mouth
> For women, cattle and corn
> Now is the dun come up from the South
> With Oak, and Ash and Thorn!"

Janet and Stewart Farrar; "Eight Sabbats For Witches"; Robert Hale 1983

Stag Call Also Maychant Three

The men gather around the fire, next to their partners, and they say in unison:

> "I am the stag of seven tines;
> I am a wide flood on the plain;
> I am a wind on the deep waters;
> I am a shining tear of the sun;
> I am a hawk on a cliff;
> I am fair among flowers;
> I am a god who sets the head afire with smoke."

Graves, Robert; "The White Goddess"; Farrar 1970

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